Demands of Refugees Staying in Rajasthan

2762. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's response to the 19000 refugees' demands who were staying at Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Rajasthan and will be laid on the table of the House.

Custodial Deaths

2763. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's views and reaction to over 1000 custodial deaths across the country last year; and

(b) the details of corrective measures taken or proposed by the Union Government to prevent custodial deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the National Human Rights Commission, the number of deaths in custody during the year 1999-2000 was 1093, out of which 177 deaths took place in police custody and 916 deaths took place in judicial custody.

'Police' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. However, the Union Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to the effect that their police personnel should conduct themselves in a human manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. Human rights, as a subject, has been included in the training curricula of police personnel. Induction and in-service training programmes also include special inputs to sensitize police personnel about the use of scientific methods for investigation.